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News Releases and other News Material

Number 7193

June 28 - July 2, 1993

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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0523.93

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USDA's "FARM" TO DOCUMENT SUSTAINABLE WAYS TO GROW CROPS

WASHINGTON, June 29--On a hot Monday morning in May, Aref A. Abdul-Baki and John R. Teasdale were glad it wasn't raining. The weekend before they had spent 12 hours a day toting shovels and helping a farm crew build raised beds of soil for several thousand tomatoes. "It rained so much, we never thought we'd get the tomatoes planted," Abdul-Baki said.

Now, as the two men tromped through the field in workboots, they made sure the new automatic planter punched tomato seedlings into the ground, watered and fertilized them and packed soil around the young plants. Two weeks later they were ready to plant sweet corn on other beds.

Their work, building on research begun several years ago, is part of a broad-scale research and demonstration project the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center started this spring.

Donald D. Bills, who heads the project for USDA's Agricultural Research Service at "The Farm" in suburban Washington, D.C., said the goal is to demonstrate successful sustainable agriculture techniques for the nation and study long-term effects on farm-sized fields.

He said sustainable agriculture is farming for the long run, balancing environmental and financial concerns. "This means that whenever possible, what's used on the farm should come from the farm and stay on the farm. For example, we're recycling manure from our dairy barns and using green manure crops and cover crops to substitute for some of the chemical fertilizers used on our farm."

Bills said Maryland farmers would serve on an advisory board, helping the researchers to provide answers they and other farmers need, especially those in the mid-eastern states. "Already the project is attracting the interest of those who want to keep farm chemicals out of the Chesapeake Bay," he said.

He said the project's research involves both vegetables and field crops--including corn and soybeans--on almost 60 acres of land. "We will be documenting everything from crop yields to soil tillage practices, composting, farming costs and other concerns."

He said Abdul-Baki and Teasdale, the plant physiologists who are conducting the vegetable part of the project, have developed a good working model of sustainable farming that gets 20 percent higher tomato yields. Tomato seedlings are planted in hairy vetch rather than plastic mulch. Hairy vetch is a nitrogen-fixing legume that reduces soil erosion, adds organic matter and lowers water use, Bills said.

Abdul-Baki is testing various rates of fertilizer nitrogen to find the lowest amount needed on the vetch-covered, raised beds of tomatoes. Bills said the model currently uses half the chemical fertilizer of conventional systems and less insecticide and herbicide. He said it is environmentally friendly--lowering chemical use and other costs--while increasing yields.

"At times in such studies, we feel more like farmers than scientific researchers," said Bills, who chairs the center's Sustainable Agriculture Project Coordinating Committee.

In other parts of the project:

- corn, soybeans, red clover and barley are growing on a 14-acre demonstration field;
- on-farm composting of farm and urban waste will begin this year; and
- a 40-acre field is being prepared for corn-soybean research beginning in the spring of 1995.

Over the next two years, "an unusually thorough pre-testing will identify places in the 40-acre field that, although only a few feet apart, can vary dramatically in yields," Bills said. Among the technologies used will be aerial mapping, satellite imagery of soils and crops, global positioning systems and soil analysis. "Our goal is to track subtle but significant changes in soils and crops that occur very slowly over a period of time," he said.

"Individual researchers will use the 40-acre field for their own related studies, in addition to the main experiments we have scheduled," Bills said. "Already more than 40 of our scientists have submitted other proposals for projects, in disciplines ranging from soil chemistry to human nutrition and family economics. We expect researchers from the University of Maryland and elsewhere to join us."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Donald D. Bills, Director, Product Quality and Development Institute, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md. 20705; telephone: (301) 504-7338.

A photograph, USDA Photo. Neg. No. 93-CSO259, showing John Teasdale and Aref Abdul-Baki in the tomato demonstration plot is available from Photography Division, OPA, Room 4404-S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 720-6633. Please request by negative number.

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Release No. 0527.93

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ALGERIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BUTTERFAT UNDER DAIRY EXPORT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 29--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced that Algeria is eligible for an additional 5,000 metric tons of butterfat under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Export Incentive Program.

Sales of butterfat will be made thorough normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

This allocation will be valid until Dec. 31, as provided in the invitation for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Janet M. Kavan, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Release No. 0529.93

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HARDY NEW RANGE GRASS BORROWS GENES FROM WEED

WASHINGTON, June 30--A new grass for livestock and wildlife survives some of the most unpredictable weather in the United States thanks to genes from a common weed called quackgrass, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist reports.

"Our new hybrid grass doesn't spread like a weed, but has the hardiness of quackgrass so it can survive winds, dry spells and salty soils in an area extending from Montana to North Dakota and south to Colorado and Nebraska," said Kay H. Asay, a plant geneticist.

He and colleagues in USDA's Agricultural Research Service crossbred quackgrass and bluebunch wheatgrass to get the hybrid, named NewHy. They selected it from more than 250 plant hybrids developed in experiments at the Forage and Range Research Laboratory in Logan, Utah.

"We've given seed of the new hybrid to seed companies so it is now commercially available," said Asay. He said NewHy is intended for ranchers and farmers who need a hardy and nutritious range grass for livestock and wildlife.

"NewHy has a good future. It is very hardy and a good soil stabilizer. It might also be used in reseeding programs aimed at reclaiming disturbed and overgrazed rangelands," said James H. Elgin, the agency's national program leader for forage, in Beltsville, Md.

Asay said studies by ARS scientists at Miles City, Mont., showed the grass produced almost twice as much forage as wildrye grasses commonly found on rangeland. And in animal taste tests, livestock liked its flavor.

"NewHy does especially well on salty soils where most range grasses struggle to survive, thanks to genetics from the quackgrass," he said. Quackgrass and bluebunch are different plant species but are related enough so they could be crossed to obtain the best traits from each, he added. What's more, he said, the new hybrid is also more drought resistant than its quackgrass parent and better resists attack from bluegrass bill bug, a sometimes troublesome grass pest.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Kay H. Asay, Forage and Range Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Logan, Utah; telephone (801) 750-3069.

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Release No. 0530.93

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USDA PROPOSES REVISIONS OF COLBY CHEESE STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, June 30--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to revise the U.S. standards for grades of colby cheese.

The proposed changes would expand the standards to permit the grading of colby cheese that contains few or no mechanical openings. Cheese produced by traditional methods would still be graded as before. USDA is not proposing any additional changes to body and texture characteristics.

Proposed changes in packaging requirements would provide greater clarity and expand the types of packaging permitted. The requirements would recognize the methods used today, such as rinded and paraffin-dipped, rindless and wrapped, and rindless and paraffin-dipped, and allow for future developments in packaging technology.

L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "These changes are necessary to reflect changes in manufacturing procedures and marketing practices."

When the current standards were established in 1973, production procedures encouraged the formation of small mechanical openings evenly distributed through-out the cheese. The use of automated production technology has resulted in cheese that no longer exhibits these openings. Cheese produced in this manner is readily available and is capturing an increasing share of the colby cheese market.

"Since these standards were established, changes in terminology and formatting have taken place. This proposal would update the standards and provide consistency among the various U.S. grade standards for cheeses," said Massaro.

USDA quality grade standards for dairy products have been developed to help buyers and sellers market their products. Use of the standards is voluntary and paid for by the user.

Details of the proposed changes will be published in the June 30 Federal Register. Comments in duplicate, postmarked or courier-dated no later than Aug. 30, should be sent to the Director, Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

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Release No. 0531.93
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1993 NO-NET-COST ASSESSMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR FIRE-CURED, DARK AIR-CURED TOBACCOS

WASHINGTON, June 30--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced today that producers of 1993-crop Kentucky and Tennessee dark air-cured (types 35-36) and fire-cured (types 22-23) tobacco must agree to pay no-net-cost assessments on all marketings of these tobaccos to qualify for price support.

No-net-cost assessments are .8725 cent per pound for dark air-cured and 0.768 cent per pound for fire-cured tobaccos. The no-net-cost assessments are intended to ensure the tobacco price support program will be operated at no-net-cost to taxpayers as required by the No-Net-Cost Tobacco Program Act of 1982.

The no-net-cost assessment is in addition to the marketing assessment of 1.255 cents per pound for dark air-cured and 1.464 cents per pound for fire-cured tobaccos. The marketing assessments will be shared equally between producers and purchasers with each paying .6275 cent per pound for dark air-cured and .732 cent per pound for fire-cured tobaccos, as required by the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended. This Act provides that producers and purchasers of 1991 through 1995 crops of these tobaccos must each pay a marketing assessment equal to .5 percent of the national price support level for each kind of tobacco on each pound marketed.

The no-net-cost assessment, plus the 1993 marketing assessment, means that a total of 1.5 cents per pound will be collected from producers on each pound of dark air-cured and fire-cured tobacco marketed during the 1993 marketing season.

Before reaching a final determination on the no-net-cost assessments, USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation consulted with the Eastern Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers Association, the Western Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers Association and the Stemming District Tobacco Association, the producer-owned associations through which price support is made available for Kentucky and Tennessee dark air-cured and fire-cured tobaccos.



Release No. 0532.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES 1993-CROP SUGAR PRICE SUPPORT LOAN RATES

WASHINGTON, June 30--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that the national (weighted average) price support loan rates for the 1993 crop of domestically-grown sugarcane and sugar beets will be 18 cents per pound for raw cane sugar and 23.62 cents per pound for refined beet sugar.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger said the loan rates have been adjusted to reflect the processing location of the sugar offered as collateral for price support loans. The processing regions and applicable 1993-crop regional loan rates for refined beet sugar are:

<u>Region Number and Description</u>	<u>Cents Per Pound of Refined Beet Sugar</u>
1. Michigan and Ohio.	24.51
2. Minnesota and the eastern half of North Dakota.	23.65
3. Northeastern quarter of Colorado, Nebraska and the southeastern quarter of Wyoming.	23.37
4. Texas.	24.19
5. Montana, northwestern quarter of Wyoming and the western half of North Dakota.	23.20

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 6. Idaho -- east of the line formed by the eastern boundary of Owyhee County and the northward extension of that boundary. | 23.06 |
| 7. Oregon, Idaho -- west of the line formed by the eastern boundary of Owyhee County and the northward extension of that boundary. | 23.06 |
| 8. California. | 24.16 |

Except for sugar processed in Hawaii or Puerto Rico but pledged as collateral while stored under loan on the mainland of the U.S., where the applicable loan rate is 18.00 cents per pound, the processing state and applicable 1993 state crop loan rates for cane sugar, raw value, are as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>Cents Per Pound of Cane Sugar, Raw Value</u>
Florida	17.92
Hawaii	17.83
Louisiana	18.32
Texas	18.10
Puerto Rico	18.12

The price support level is the minimum amount that must be paid to growers by processors participating in the price support loan program. Based on the established regional loan rates, the minimum price support levels for sugar beets and sugarcane are as follows:

<u>Region or State</u>	<u>Support Prices</u>
Sugar Beets	Dollars Per Net Ton
1	36.04
2	33.94
3	36.73
4	39.75
5	36.74
6	37.02
7	37.02
8	38.23
Sugarcane	Dollars
Florida	26.23 per net ton
Hawaii	23.21 per net ton
Louisiana	23.16 per gross ton
Texas	20.17 per gross ton
Puerto Rico	17.50 per gross ton



Release No. 0533.93
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USDA CHANGES PURCHASE PRICES FOR BUTTER, CHEESE AND NONFAT DRY MILK

WASHINGTON, June 30--Effective July 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will increase the price it pays for nonfat dry milk by 6.10 cents per pound to 103.40 cents and reduce the price for butter by 11.25 cents per pound to 65 cents.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger said the adjustments are being made to reflect changes in the market value of milkfat and nonfat components of milk, encourage milk producers to produce milk with a higher proportion of nonfat solids and promote greater commercial use of milkfat.

Because of the change in milkfat value, the CCC purchase prices for block Cheddar and barrel cheese will be increased from \$1.1175 to \$1.1200 per pound and from \$1.0875 to \$1.0900 per pound, respectively.

The price changes announced today are offsetting adjustments of 50 cents per 100 pounds of milk. The support price for milk remains \$10.10 per hundred-weight (cwt.) for milk containing 3.67 percent milkfat. The equivalent price for milk with a milkfat content of 3.5 percent is \$9.99 per cwt.

Sales of CCC-owned butter for unrestricted use will be temporarily suspended as of July 1. Sales of CCC-owned butter for unrestricted use will be resumed as of Sept. 1.

Further terms and conditions for CCC purchases of dairy products will be contained in CCC announcements.

A tabular summary of the new prices follows.

CCC PURCHASE PRICES FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS
(Dollars per Pound)

PRODUCTS	Produced before July 7, 1993 and Graded and Offered by July 21, 1993 3/	Produced on or after July 7, 1993 or Not Graded and Offered by July 21, 1993 3/
BUTTER: U.S. Grade A or Higher 25-kg. blocks		
Salted	0.7625	0.6500
NONFAT DRY MILK: (Spray), U.S. EXTRA GRADE (but not more than 3.5 percent moisture):		
Nonfortified (25-kg. bags) 1/	0.9730 3/	1.0340 3/
Fortified (Vitamins A & D) (25-kg. bags)	0.9830 3/	1.0440 3/
CHEESE: Standard Moisture Basis 2/ (37.8 - 39.0 percent moisture)		
40-lb. block Cheddar U.S. Grade A or higher (but not more than 38.5 percent moisture)	1.1175 3/	1.1200 3/
500-lb. Barrel Cheese U.S. Extra Grade (but not more than 36.5 percent moisture)	1.0875 3/	1.0900 3/

1/ Nonfat dry milk in bags which are classified as "Type X" will be accepted at a discount of 0.50 cent (1/2 cent) per pound.

2/ The price per pound for cheese which contains less than 37.8 percent moisture shall be shown in the Moisture Adjustment Cheese Price Chart (Form ASCS-150), which will be furnished upon request.

3/ With respect to purchases of nonfat dry milk and cheese, the higher purchase prices in this schedule will apply only to products produced on or after July 7, 1993. Any eligible products with respect to nonfat dry milk and cheese which are produced before that date will be eligible only for the lower prices in the table regardless of the date on which the products are graded and offered.



Release No. 0534.93
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USDA EASING RESTRICTIONS AND ADDING COUNTIES TO PINE SHOOT BEETLE QUARANTINE

WASHINGTON, July 1--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced changes today in the pine shoot beetle quarantine, easing restrictions on certain pine transplants and adding 11 counties to the list of quarantined areas.

"We are taking immediate action to relieve burdensome restrictions during the shipping season, while continuing to prevent the interstate spread of the pine shoot beetle," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Since November 1992, USDA and cooperative state officials have quarantined infested counties in Ohio, New York, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Indiana to prevent the spread of the beetle (USDA News Releases 1060.92 and 0381.93).

Pine seedlings and transplants that are up to 36 inches tall with a trunk less than one-inch in diameter at the soil line, will be inspected before they are moved from quarantined areas. A plant is considered a transplant if it is replanted from its original seed bed. Plants growing where their seeds were originally planted are called seedlings.

Additionally, six counties in Michigan, and five in Indiana, are being added to the quarantine area following detections of the beetle in those counties. New counties in Michigan include Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Kalamazoo and Livingston. The new counties in Indiana are Benton, Huntington, Miami, Tippecanoe and White. This brings the total to 55 quarantined counties in Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and New York.

Adult pine shoot beetles feed on new shoots of healthy pine trees causing stunted and distorted growth. The beetle is also an important carrier of several diseases of pine trees.

Quarantine regulations restrict the movement of cut pine Christmas trees, pine nursery stock, pine logs and lumber with bark attached, pine stumps and pine bark chips. Lumber and logs without bark attached are not regulated.

The interim rule became effective June 23 and was in the June 29 Federal Register. Written comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Aug. 30. An original and three copies should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. The comments should refer to docket number 92-139-4.

Comments may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Release No. 0535.93
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USDA ESTABLISHES SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993

WASHINGTON, June 30--Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger today announced the establishment of marketing allotments for sugar and crystalline fructose for fiscal year 1993.

This action applies to all sugar and crystalline fructose marketed in the United States from Oct. 1, 1992, through Sept. 30, 1993.

The overall allotment quantity is 7,770 thousand short tons (TST). The beet sugar allotment is 4,149.2 TST (53.4 percent) and the cane sugar allotment is 3,620.8 TST (46.6 percent). Individual state allotments for cane sugar and the preliminary individual sugar beet and sugarcane processor allocations are as follows:

Thousand short tons,
raw value equivalent

Beet Sector 4,149.2

Amalgamated Sugar Company	800.796
American Crystal Sugar Company	904.526
Delta Sugar Corporation	41.492
Great Lakes Sugar Company	53.940
Holly Sugar Corporation	742.707
Michigan Sugar Company	248.952
Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative	182.565
Monitor Sugar Company	136.924
Savannah Food Industries (ADSEP Division)	20.746
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative	257.250
Spreckels Sugar Company, Inc.	282.146
Western Sugar Company	477.158

Thousand short tons,
raw value

Cane Sector 3,620.8

Florida 1,701.8

Atlantic Sugar Association , Inc.	127.634
Okeelanta Corporation	304.620
Osceola Farms Company	190.600
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida	289.303
Talisman Sugar Corporation	124.230
U.S. Sugar Corporation	665.398

Louisiana 832.8

Alma Plantation, Ltd.	35.810
Breaux Bridge Sugar Cooperative	28.315
Caire & Graugnard	8.328
Caldwell Sugars Cooperative, Inc.	34.978
Cajun Sugar Cooperative, Inc.	50.801
Cora-Texas Mfg. Company, Inc.	59.962
Dugas & Leblanc, Ltd.	37.476
Evan Hall Sugar Cooperative, Inc.	44.971
Glenwood Cooperative, Inc.	34.145
Harry Laws & Company, Inc.	29.981
Iberia Sugar Cooperative, Inc.	38.309
Jeanerette Sugar Company, Inc.	41.640
Lafourche Sugar Company	45.804
M.A. Patout & Sons, Ltd.	86.611
Raceland Sugar Inc.	56.630
St. James Sugar Cooperative, Inc.	42.473
St. Martin Sugar Cooperation, Inc.	33.312
St. Mary Sugar Cooperative, Inc.	39.142
Savoie Industries, Inc.	35.810
Sterling Sugars, Inc.	48.302

Texas	115.9
Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. _____	115.866
Hawaii	879.9
Hawaii Commercial & Sugar Company _____	230.523
McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd. _____	43.993
Kekaha Sugar Co., Ltd. _____	51.912
Lihue Plantation Company, Ltd. _____	58.951
Oahu Sugar Company, Ltd. _____	80.067
Pioneer Mill Company, Ltd. _____	44.873
Hilo Coast Processing Co. _____	76.548
Ka'u Agribusiness Company, Inc. _____	56.311
Olokele Sugar Company, Ltd. _____	46.633
Waialua Sugar Co., Ltd. _____	65.110
Hamakua Sugar Co. _____	124.640
Puerto Rico	90.5
Coloso _____	28.514
Mercedita _____	24.441
Plata _____	17.108
Roig _____	20.458

Deputy Secretary Rominger has determined that in the absence of proportionate shares among producers in Louisiana, the production of sugar in Louisiana will exceed the quantity of the state's cane sugar allotment and a normal carryover inventory. Therefore, as required by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, the deputy secretary has established proportionate shares on acreage of sugarcane that may be harvested in Louisiana for sugar or seed in an amount equal to 95.1 percent of each farm's sugar acreage base. However, because harvest has already been completed in Louisiana and producers could not knowingly harvest sugarcane in excess of their farm's proportionate share, no penalty shall be imposed for exceeding proportionate shares.

The deputy secretary has also established the overall marketing allotment in fiscal 1993 for crystalline fructose manufactured from corn, at 159,757 short tons.

The implementation of marketing allotments means that any sugar beet processor or sugarcane processor who markets sugar or pledges sugar as collateral for a price-support loan in excess of the processor's allocation shall be liable to the Commodity Credit Corporation for a civil penalty in an amount equal to 3 times the U.S. market value of that quantity exceeding allocation.

Marketings of sugar also include any sugar that is forfeited to the CCC. These marketings, if in excess of the processor's allocation, shall be used in determining whether this civil penalty is owed to CCC.

Interested parties may request a hearing before the CCC on these proposed allocations by filing a request before 5 p.m., EDT, on July 8.

For additional information, contact Robert D. Barry, director, Sweeteners Analysis Division, ASCS, Room 3739-S, USDA, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415; fax to 202-720-8261; or telephone 202-720-3391.



Release No. 0536.93
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POTATO BEETLE ENEMIES ASSEMBLED FOR MAINE EXPERIMENT

WASHINGTON, July 1--Colorado potato beetles hoping for leisurely meals in a Maine potato field this summer will instead be ambushed by natural enemies, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist reports.

"We've recruited a beneficial stinkbug and a fungus that we will put out in the field," said K. Duane Biever with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "If too many beetles escape those attacks," he added, "we'll use one more weapon--a bacterial bioinsecticide--in our experiment."

The summer-long test, which began this week at the University of Maine's potato research farm at Presque Isle, is "likely the first to gather this array of organisms to protect potato fields from the beetle," Biever said.

He said researchers or potato growers have already used each of the organisms separately or in a pair to battle the potato beetle. These organisms are the predatory stinkbug *Perillus bioculatus*, the fungus *Beauveria bassiana* and the soil bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

"Now we want to see if all three natural enemies can be used together as an effective alternative to spraying with chemical insecticides," he said. "Colorado potato beetles have developed resistance to many conventional insecticides. The resistance problem is the worst on New York's Long Island, but also is serious in all potato-growing regions in Eastern States."

He said the test will help researchers discover if this or another combination of natural enemies is best to use in combatting the beetle, the number one insect pest of potatoes in the eastern half of the United States. The beetle also attacks tomatoes and eggplant, said Biever, a research entomologist with the ARS Fruit and Vegetable Research Unit, Yakima, Wash.

Biever and colleagues are now raising the stinkbug army at their Yakima insectary. They plan to release the insects, 50,000 at a time, at three different intervals, spaced about 14 days apart.

"We'll bring in the first stinkbugs just as the Colorado potato beetles begin laying their eggs," said Biever. Both young and adult stinkbugs have a hearty appetite for the bright orange eggs.

Stinkbugs also will eat Colorado potato beetle larvae, the soft-bodied young that hatch from the eggs and feed on potato plant leaves. "Eggs and slow-moving larvae make an easy meal for the stinkbugs," Biever said. Stinkbugs don't usually pursue adult beetles because adults are harder to catch and subdue. The adults of both species are about three-eighths-inch long so are evenly matched in size.

As adults, Biever's stinkbugs are black-and-white or red-and-black, and sport shield-like markings on their backs. Unlike many other stinkbugs, *P. bioculatus* doesn't emit a noticeable odor and won't harm field or garden plants.

Any beetles not killed by the stinkbugs can fall victim to the *B. bassiana* fungus that scientists plan to spray on the potato field in July. Once it makes its way inside a beetle, the fungus kills by feeding on the insect's innards.

As the fungus multiplies, it forms spore-laden structures that emerge from the beetle corpse, giving it a white, fuzzy appearance. When ejected, the fresh spores may parasitize other Colorado potato beetles that happen along. MycoTech Corp. of Butte, Mont., is producing the fungus, which is not yet available for commercial use. The microorganism is harmless to plants, animals, and humans.

Scientists will use the well-known, environmentally friendly bioinsecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt, only if needed. "We're holding back on Bt because we don't want the beetles to develop a resistance to it," Biever explained. Bt won't harm humans but works as a stomach toxin in beetles, he said.

In the United States, growers and gardeners have used Bt for more than 30 years to control certain insect pests. But a Bt strain effective against the Colorado potato beetle "has only been available for the past few years," Biever said.

Biever is cooperating with University of Maine entomologists Eleanor Groden, Frank Drummond, and Randall Alford in the test. Groden, Drummond and Alford lead an eight-year-study at the Presque Isle potato farm that will yield new, improved techniques for growing potatoes.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact K. Duane Biever, research entomologist, Fruit and Vegetable Insect Research Unit, Yakima Agricultural Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Yakima, Wash. 98902; telephone (509) 575-5963.

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Release No. 0537.93
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CCC INTEREST RATE FOR JULY SET AT 3-1/2 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, July 1--Commodity loans disbursed in July by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 3-1/2 percent interest rate, according to Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the CCC.

The 3-1/2 percent interest rate is up from June's 3-1/4 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in July.

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Release No. 0539.93
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ESPY NAMES MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES TO THE HONEY BOARD

WASHINGTON, July 1--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced the appointments of four members and four alternate members to serve on the Honey Board.

All appointees will serve a term, beginning immediately and ending March 31, 1996.

The Honey Board administers provisions of the 1986 federal Honey Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Order, which authorizes development of programs to improve the position of honey in the marketplace. The board administers an industry-funded national research, promotion and consumer information program to increase domestic honey consumption and U.S. honey exports.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the operations of the Honey Board.

Members and alternates announced today are:

Frank E. Randall, Umatilla, Fla., and alternate Lloyd B. Shearman Jr., Wimauma, Fla., representing honey producers;

Neil J. Miller, Blackfoot, Idaho, and alternate Shirley W. Miller, Midvale, Utah, representing handlers; and

M.Z. (Mike) Ingalls, Sultan, Wash., and alternate Jill M. Clark, Lancaster, Penn., representing importers.

Appointed as public member is Shirley L. Doty, Yakima, Wash., with alternate Kelly J. Duffin-Maxwell, Glenview, Ill.

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Release No. 0540.93

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USDA AMENDS EGG BOARD RULES AND REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, July 1--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is amending the Egg Research and Promotion Rules and Regulations to establish a late penalty for past-due assessments.

L. P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said a late-payment charge will improve compliance with the program.

Egg handlers are required to pay assessments on a monthly basis. However, some handlers continually remit assessments after they are due or, in some cases, refuse to pay at all. These assessments are collectable on the 15th day after the end of the reporting period. It is incumbent upon the board's compliance department to ensure that such payments are made.

"Since the board relies on a predictable income to fund ongoing projects, delinquent assessments impede the boards ability to do it's work," Massaro said.

Beginning Sept. 1 a late-payment charge of 1.5 percent will be assessed on all delinquencies more than 30 days past due.

Details of the late-payment charge will appeared as a final rule in the June 29 Federal Register. Copies are available from Janice L. Lockard, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 3944-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-3506.



Program Announcements-

Release No. 0525.93

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USDA ANNOUNCES CORN AND SOYBEAN STRIKE PRICES FOR 1993 OPTIONS CONTRACTS

WASHINGTON, June 29--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced today that the loan rate equivalent strike prices will be \$2.00 per bushel for corn producers and \$5.50 per bushel for soybean producers in the Options Pilot Program.

Corn producers in the Illinois counties of Champaign, Logan and Shelby, the Indiana counties of Carroll, Clinton and Tippecanoe and the Iowa counties of Boone, Grundy and Hardin are eligible to participate. Soybean producers in the same three Illinois counties are also eligible.

The strike price is the price at which the holder of a put option may exercise a right to sell the underlying futures contract.

The Options Pilot Program was announced on Oct. 28, 1992. (USDA Release No. 1003.92).

Producers are allowed to use options contracts for price support. They may enroll up to 50,000 bushels of corn and 15,000 bushels of soybeans in the program and achieve protection equivalent to the target price or loan rate.

The target rate equivalent strike price for corn was announced on Jan. 29 at \$2.90 per bushel. (USDA Release No. 0083.93).



Release No. 0526.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, June 29--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.75 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.06 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.03 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.38 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.48
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.48
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.49

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made July 6 at 3 p.m. EDT.



Release No. 0541.93
 Minnie Tom H. Meyer (202) 720-6734
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, July 1--Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. July 8. The user marketing certificate payment rates announced today are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 2 through midnight Thursday, July 8.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 82 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 1.70 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	42.82 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	82
II.	USNE Price	58.20 cents per pound
	NE Price	-56.50 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	1.70 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	56.50
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	- 13.68
Calculated AWP	42.82
Further AWP adjustment	- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	42.82 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	56.50
NE Coarse Count Price	- 51.88
	4.62
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.95
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT.....	0.67 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.25 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Current Minus NE Current	Current User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
			cents per pound		
1	June 10, 1993	61.50	59.36	2.14	0.89
2	June 17, 1993	60.30	58.37	1.93	0.68
3	June 24, 1993	59.55	57.93	1.62	0.37
4	July 1, 1993	58.70	57.19	1.51	0.26

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

If the USNE forward price exceeds the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP does not exceed 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period, a forward user marketing certificate will be issued. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price	USNE Forward Minus NE Forward	Forward User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		cents per pound	
1	June 10, 1993	59.80	58.42	1.38	0 2/
2	June 17, 1993	59.10	57.70	1.40	0 2/
3	June 24, 1993	58.50	57.15	1.35	0 2/
4	July 1, 1993	58.20	56.50	1.70	0.45

1/ USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

2/ USNE forward price must exceed NE forward price by 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks before a forward certificate payment is applicable.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, July 8.



Media Advisories-

Release No. 0521.93
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NAL ISSUES BIBLIOGRAPHY ON GLOBAL TRADE

BELTSVILLE, Md, June 28--The National Agricultural Library has issued a bibliography "International Trade Policies and Global Agriculture, January 1991-February 1993, QB 93-22," that is a listing of recent articles on international agricultural trade and worldwide policies affecting it.

A large number of the articles deal with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Nearly 350 citations are included and citations were taken from NAL's AGRICOLA bibliographic data base, which lists nearly 4 million pieces of agricultural literature.

"This bibliography is intended to provide current awareness on the subject," said Mary Lassanyi, who compiled the bibliography. "The citations are a substantial resource for anyone investigating the topic of international agricultural trade."

Lassanyi, who is the coordinator of NAL's Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center (ATMIC), said the bibliography updates another that was done by NAL on GATT and global agriculture in Oct 1990 (QB 91-09). The earlier bibliography contained citations on literature from Jan. 1989 to Aug. 1990. Most of the materials listed in bibliography are available from NAL.

Copies of the bibliography may be ordered by contacting the Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center, National Agricultural Library, Room 304, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351, telephone (301) 504-5509

NAL is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, is one of three national libraries of the United States.



Release No. 0522.93
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NAL BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTS U.S. FARM POLICY ARTICLES

BELTSVILLE, Md, June 28--Citations on 285 recent articles dealing with U.S. policy on agriculture are covered in the new bibliography from the National Agricultural Library, "U.S. Farm Policy, January 1991 - February 1993, QB 93-21."

From the 1990 Farm Bill to worldwide trends affecting U.S. agriculture, the bibliography lists articles on many recent policies shaping U.S. agriculture.

According to the bibliography's compiler, Mary Lassanyi, the bibliography would be a valuable resource to those researching or involved in other ways with U.S. farm policy.

"Items included in the bibliography cover food safety, hunger, foreign aid, forestry...nearly every issue facing U.S. agriculture today," Lassanyi said. "In these articles are contained the thoughts and ideas of some of the most respected agricultural minds in the world."

Citations in the bibliography were taken from NAL's AGRICOLA bibliographic database that contains 3 million citations to agricultural literature. Most items listed in the bibliography are available from NAL.

Copies of the bibliography may be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center, National Agricultural Library, Room 304, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351, telephone (301) 504-5509.

NAL is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, is one of three national libraries of the United States.



